(c) if so, by when such a Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) At present, there is no law existing in the country for regulating methods for surrogate mothers and test tube babies. However, the Indian Council of Medical Research along with the National Academy of Medical Sciences have prepared Draft Guidelines for Accreditation, Regulation and supervision of Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) Clinics which have recently been released for public debate.

The Draft Guidelines broadly address the issues related to the infrastructure required; skill mix and human resource required; ethical issues related to the recipients; redressal mechanism etc. The main objective of the guidelines is to standardize the quality of services being provided in the ART clinics.

At present the Government has no intention of enacting any law on the subject.

Action to check unplanned growth of Urban Areas

*276. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to check unplanned and uncontrolled growth in urban areas; and

(b) the reforms Government are contemplating for development of urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):(a) and (b) Urban Development is a State subject. It is, therefore, the responsibility of States to check unplanned and uncontrolled growth in urban areas.

Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation supplements the efforts of State Governments through policy formulation, technical guidance and central assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for urban development.

In order to accelerate the pace of sustainable urban development, Central Government announced the following new tools of reforms, during 2002-2003:—

(i) Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF).

(ii) City Challenge Fund (CCF).

(iii) Pooled Finance Development Scheme (PFDS).

URIF has been set up to provide reform linked assistance to States in the following areas:—

1. Repeal of the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act at the State level by Resolution;

2. Rationalisation of Stamp Duty;

3. Reform of Rent Control Laws to remove rent control so as to stimulate private investment in rental housing;

4. Introduction of computerised processes of registration;

5. Reform of Property Tax so that it may become a major source of revenue of urban local bodies, and arrangement for its effective implementation so that collection efficiency reaches at least 85% by the end of Xth Plan period;

6. Levy of reasonable user charges by Urban Local Bodies, with the objective that full cost of O&M (Operation & Maintenance) is collected by end of the Xth Plan period;

7. Introduction of double entry system of accounting in Urban Local Bodies.

CCF is an incentive based facility that will support cities to fund transitional costs of moving towards sustainable and creditworthy institutional systems of municipal management and service delivery. It will assist in the partial financing of the cost of developing an economic reform programme & financially viable projects to be undertaken by urban local bodies.

PFDS is meant to provide credit enhancement to assist local bodies to access market borrowing on a creditworthy basis.